

American Women During World War II: The Faces of War

Directions: For this project, you will be investigating the war experience from the perspective of the individual. At this point, all of you have selected a picture of an American woman from World War II.

Depending on the picture you selected, your woman might be a teenager, middle-aged, or elderly. Moreover, she might be Caucasian, African-American, Asian-American, or Latina. Regardless, it will be your job to create a biography/journal for your woman from 1941-1945. There are several parts to this project that include the following:

Part One: You must include an introduction page (double-spaced) that describes:

- Your woman's name and age (age as of 1941 at the start of the war)
- Their family background (if they have any family)
- Where they are from (as specific as possible – e.g. give a town, state, and country)
- How your person initially felt about America's involvement in World War II
- When the picture you were given was taken and what was happening to the woman in it when it was taken

Remember: All of this information is fictional (you make it up!).

Part Two: Putting yourself in the "shoes" of your woman, you must write a one-page* (double-spaced) journal entry for each year that the U.S. fought in the war (1941-1945). Therefore, when finished, you will have 5, one-page journal entries. Each journal entry should be historically accurate. That is, if your entry is from 1942, you should not reference the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

Remember, these entries should reflect ONE DAY in that year, not a summary of everything that happened in that year. Your entries can include, but are NOT LIMITED TO:

- Daily life during the war (the work you do, etc.)
- What the general feeling of the war is at that specific time period
- What the government is telling you (on the radio, in newspapers, at the movies, etc.)
- What you are doing socially to pass the time – either as a civilian or as a woman in the military

These do not need to be a full page, but the more you give the better

Part Three: For this section, you will need to find five primary source materials that pertain directly to the experience of your person. These can be political cartoons, letters written during the war, newspaper clippings, advertisements, government posters, maps, photographs, poems, World War II song lyrics, etc.

Again, be specific to your person. That is, if you are a woman who worked in a shipbuilding yard, do not include a primary source that addresses women serving overseas.

Grading: Your assignment is worth 65 points and will be graded using the following criteria:

Part One: Introduction	10 Points
Part Two: Journal Entries (5 points per entry)	25 Points
Part Three: Primary Sources (3 points per item)	15 Points
Bibliography: For written information and other sources (pictures, etc.)	5 Points
Miscellaneous:	10 points
• Creativity	
• The whole project is typed (excluding primary sources)	
• Neatness, organization, and presentation	
• Additional touches (e.g. table of contents, etc.)	